Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-20 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 STRE-00 /136 W

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R 261650Z JUL 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8070 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 14534

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE, STR AND TREASURY (FOR ERENHAFT) ELECTRONICALLY PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJ: EC COMMISSION PUBLICLY REGRETS US COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON EC SUGAR IMPORTS

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 13973; (B) BRUSSELS 14246

1. AT THE EC COMMISSION'S JULY 26 PRESS BRIEFING, A

SPOKESMAN FOR EC AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH READ
A PREPARED STATEMENT CONCERNING THE DECISION BY THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT TO COUNTERVAIL AGAINST U.S. IMPORTS OF EC
SUGAR. THE STATEMENT CALLED THE CVD UNJUSTIFIED FOR
SEVERAL REASONS. EC SUGAR EXPORTS TO THE U.S. ARE ONLY
A NEGLIGIBLE PART OF THAT MARKET. THEY DO NOT CAUSE
MATERIAL INJURY TO AMERICAN PRODUCERS. U.S. SUGAR IMPORT
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REQUIREMENTS TOTAL ABOUT FOUR MILLION TONS, WHEREAS EC EXPORTS TO THE U.S. IN RECENT YEARS HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN 100,000 AND, IN MOST OF THESE YEARS, EVEN LESS THAN 10,000 TONS. PRICES FOR SUGAR OFFERED TO THE U.S. MARKET HAVE NOT BEEN LESS THAN THE WORLD PRICE, AND EC SUGAR EXPORT SUBSIDIES THAT HAVE BEEN GRANTED WERE IN NO CASE HIGHER THAN THE DIFFERENCE

BETWEEN COMMUNITY PRICES AND THOSE ON THE WORLD MARKET.

2. ON JULY 25, MEYNELL, DG I (EXTERNAL RELATIONS), OFFICER IN CHARGE OF NORTH AMERICAN RELATIONS, ASKED DCM IF U.S. HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ARTICLE 57 OF THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT (ISA) IN ITS DELIBERATIONS CONCERNING A CVD ON SUGAR. THE SAME POINT WAS RAISED ON ANOTHER OCCASION BY AN OFFICIAL IN DG VI (AGRICULTURE) RESPONSIBLE FOR SUGAR. IN BOTH CASES, USEC OFFICERS REPLIED THAT, ALTHOUGH THE U.S. HAS SIGNED THE ISA, IT IS NOT YET A MEMBER BECAUSE THE U.S. SENATE HAS NOT YET RATIFIED THE AGREEMENT. THEREFORE, USE OF ARTICLE 57 AT THIS TIME FOR THIS PROBLEM WAS IMPOSSIBLE. MOREOVER, MISSION OFFICERS SAID IT WAS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT WE WOULD HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH USE OF ARTICLE 57 IN FUTURE TO DEAL WITH SUBSIDIZED EXPORTS SINCE CVD LAW WOULD REQUIRE RECOURSE TO COUNTERVAIL AS NECESSARY PROCEDURE. NEITHER OF THE EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS CONTESTED OUR COMMENTS. HINTON

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